

NATURE CONSERVATION NEWS

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Volume 6 - Number 3

December 1956

HIGHWAYS AND NATURAL AREAS

Importance of the planning stage

With the enactment by Congress of the new federal highway program calling for the expenditure of billions in the next few years, it is apparent that the growing trend toward destruction of natural areas by highway construction will be increased. Modern highway construction involves tremendous alterations of the landscape. Highway planners have an understandable tendency to look for the cheapest routes and, everything else being equal, the more natural the terrain may be the cheaper it is.

The tendency to appropriate park land in order to avoid developed areas is particularly strong. Unfortunately, the highway planner is not too likely to be keenly aware of the irreplaceable quality of natural areas.

Highway planners must of necessity carry on their work with great secrecy because of the inevitable opposition of some land owners and the tendency of others to engage in speculative manipulations. Therefore the planners follow a policy of having the route firmly established by the time plans become publicly known. Thus, the most practical way to safeguard natural areas that may be threatened by highway construction is to convince the highway planner of their value early in the game.

Parkways and roadside rests

Great sums of money are being spent to provide beautiful landscaping for our new highways. Some legislation contains liberalized provisions for the purchase of land along highways for scenic and recreational purposes and these provisions can be turned to the advantage of natural area preservation. Often the new roads isolate small "islands" of natural landscape and these can be readily left as natural areas if the highway engineers and landscape architects realize their value.

As a necessary accommodation to our nomad population, more provisions are being made for roadside parks. Here, too, is an opportunity to provide for the preservation of small natural spots.

Vegetation management

A modern highway takes up a lot of land. This includes not only the roadbed but also the vegetated side strips and in addition the center strip of a divided highway. These are becoming progressively wider in the newer roads. The usual procedure for managing the vegetation on these strips is to mow most if not all of it with the resulting development of about as uninteresting a lawn-type vegetation as might be imagined. These increasingly large strips of "non-productive" land offer a challenge to the naturalist. Would it not be far better to redevelop prairie vegetation along highways in the mid-west than to have them bordered with bluegrass? Here is land that may be available for the perpetuation of wild vegetation practically for the asking, providing we can furnish the necessary technical vegetation management guidance to prove the job is feasible.

Landscape interpretation

A new tool for the interpretation of natural conditions to the highway traveler has been introduced by Dr. Frank E. Egler. The idea is to select points along the highway that are of interest from a vegetational standpoint. These should be easily identifiable spots where one can readily pull off the road and stop. For each such location, a brief description is written up and printed on a separate sheet. The information may include a sketch map of the location and notes on the microclimate, geology, soils and vegetation. Sample sheets of this kind for areas along one of the main highways in Connecticut were made up by Dr. William A. Niering of Connecticut College and Dr. Egler and were distributed at the biological meetings at Storrs, Conn. in August.

This plan has almost unlimited possibilities. It could be extended to include points of geological and historical interest. Sites selected would usually be in connection with roadside parks and other frequently used stopping places. Once a basic plan and cooperative procedure for producing such a series in a particular state is agreed upon, it should be possible for interested individuals, organizations, and public agencies to pool their efforts and do the job with little difficulty. Highway departments, conservation departments, automobile, oil, and photo companies might be willing to lend their support.

NATURE CONSERVANCY

4200 22ND STREET, N.E.

WASHINGTON 18, D. C.

Paths

California is developing a "riding and hiking trail" on quite a grand scale. With 670 miles constructed thus far out of a 3,000 mile goal, it is anticipated the completed project will pass through 38 counties and most of the major types of California landscape. Might not other states do well to emulate this example?

Our Motor Age presents a serious handicap to the boy with a bicycle. Not many years ago, cycling was a wonderful way for a youngster to learn about the world around him. Today he takes his life in his hands pedaling along a city street, to say nothing of a high speed highway. In our rush to spend billions to accommodate overweight, oversized and overpowered autos, might we not do well to spend a few dollars on cycle trails for the kids? A modest pavement a foot or so in width would serve, and modern engineering and equipment should make construction very low in cost compared to its value. We could give our young people nothing finer than a safe way to get a first hand acquaintance with the American landscape.

REGIONAL NOTES

Western States

An active Nature Conservancy program in the West has recently become a reality. The establishment of a Western Advisory Board has been approved and Mr. William Drake, Box 121, Canyon, California (near Oakland), has been employed as western representative of the Conservancy. Prior to his employment Mr. Drake served in a voluntary capacity as northern California representative.

The territory of the western division of the Conservancy includes the 11 western states, Alaska, and Hawaii. A substantial base of membership support and a tremendous need for preservation activities exists in the region.

President Richard H. Goodwin is currently engaged in selecting members for the Western Advisory Board.

Missouri and Maine

Charters for a Missouri Chapter and a State of Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy were officially approved on November 19.

The organizing meeting of the Missouri group took place on September 24 when 38 members and interested individuals gathered at Washington University's Clopton Experimental Farm near Clarksville, Missouri. Dr. Alfred Etter, who has recently served as Nature Conservancy representative in Missouri, was elected chairman of the Chapter. Other officers include Mrs. M. J. Jett, vice chairman; Mr. Paul Bruce Dowling, secretary; and Mr. Robert M. Doerr, treasurer. In addition, Dr. Robert McDermott, Mrs. Robert Linberg, and Dr. Julian A. Steyermark were elected to the Board of Trustees.

The Maine Chapter organizing meeting was held on October 25 at Wiscasset Inn, Wiscasset, Maine. Mr.

Wendell S. Hadlock, director of the Farnsworth Library and Art Museum, was elected chairman of the chapter and Miss Dorothea Marston, Hallowell, Maine, who has served as Maine representative of the Conservancy, was elected secretary. Other officers are Mrs. John Parker, vice chairman, and Mrs. Charles P. Bradford, treasurer. Additional members of the Board of Trustees are Mrs. Paul Hannemann, Mr. Paul S. Plummer, Mr. Christopher M. Packard, Mrs. L. M. C. Smith, and Dr. J. P. Scott.

Golden Gate, California

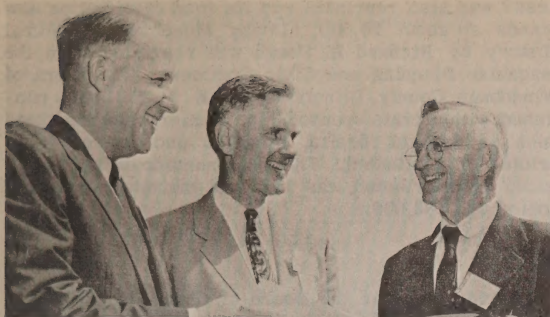
In mid-October the Army Corps of Engineers at San Francisco, California, called for bids for the grazing of sheep on 2500 acres of land on Forts Cronkhite, Barry and Baker, which occupy the tip of the peninsula at the north side of the Golden Gate, and for 540 acres on Angel Island, in San Francisco Bay. In a letter to the San Francisco Chronicle, Drs. Edward S. Ross and John Thomas Howell of the California Academy of Sciences wrote: "Thanks to their long control by military authorities, these slopes remain clothed with the last nearly undisturbed remnant of grassland and coastal brush which was once characteristic of this region and which has not yet been completely studied by scientists...they are every bit as typically Californian and every bit as worthy of protection as our redwood forests."

Many conservation organizations protested the Army's action, pointing out that the estimated revenue of \$5000 a year would be of little consequence to the government, considering the irreparable damage that would be done to the native flora. The problem has been transferred to the Commanding General of the 6th Army in San Francisco, who has reported that although bids were opened as planned, only one was received, and this was for Angel Island. A decision concerning the bid has not yet been made. It is probable that plans for grazing on the mainland will be dropped. Protests against grazing on these military reservations now or at any future time can still be sent to the Commanding General, 6th U. S. Army, Presidio, San Francisco, California.

Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary

On September 29, 1956, local conservation leaders in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, and representatives of the Nature Conservancy met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Francis R. Cope, Jr., in Dimock, to form a management committee for the permanent maintenance of Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary. The 480 acre sanctuary in northeast Pennsylvania, given to the Nature Conservancy by Mr. Cope on April 10, 1956, contains old growth hemlock and hardwood forest. In addition, there are open areas and plantations bordering the tract. A swamp and small stream are included. The variety of natural features has led to the presence of an unusually large number of plant and animal species.

A house is located at the edge of the property in the buffer zone and is occupied by a caretaker. Among present concerns of the committee are the location of an entrance and parking lot, signs, and the eventual location of trails.



ANNUAL MEETING

The new president of the Nature Conservancy, elected at the annual membership meeting at Storrs, Connecticut, on August 29 is Dr. Richard H. Goodwin, head of the Department of Botany at Connecticut College, New London. Dr. Goodwin is director of the Connecticut Arboretum in New London and has served for several years as Connecticut representative of the Nature Conservancy and chairman of the Natural Areas Committee of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

Dr. F. Raymond Fosberg of Falls Church, Virginia, and Mr. Elting Arnold of Chevy Chase, Maryland, were reelected vice president and secretary respectively. Mr. G. Flippro Gravatt, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland, was elected treasurer. Mr. Gravatt, who is a plant pathologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, replaces retiring treasurer Dr. Joseph J. Hickey.

Eight members were elected to the Board of Governors for three year terms. C. M. Goethe, William Hard, Paul A. Herbert, and Richard H. Pough were former governors who were reelected. New governors include Durward L. Allen, who is professor of wildlife management at Purdue University, president of the Wildlife Society, and author of the popular book "Our Wildlife Legacy"; Dr. Herbert W. Levi, assistant curator of arachnology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, and chairman of the Conservancy's Committee on Exotics; Dr. Robert Rienow, professor of political science at New York State College for Teachers in Albany, author of a number of textbooks, and chairman of the Conservancy's Eastern New York Chapter; and Dr. George C. Shattuck, emeritus professor of tropical medicine, Harvard Medical College.

Retiring governors are George Dock, Jr., Frank E. Egler, Karl A. Menninger, Robert L. Perkins, Jr., Julian A. Steyermark, and William Vogt.

Other business

The proposed revision of the by-laws, which had been mailed previously to the Nature Conservancy membership, was adopted unanimously. Projects and activities of the Conservancy were reviewed by members who are participating in them, and the executive director, Mr. George B. Fell, reported on the general progress of the organization during the past year.

CONSERVANCY LEADERS MEET

l. to r., Mr. Richard H. Pough, retiring president; Drs. Richard H. Goodwin, president; and Victor E. Shelford, founder in 1917 of the Committee for the Preservation of Natural Conditions, forerunner of the Conservancy; at the Conservancy annual meeting in Storrs, Connecticut.

ANNUAL REPORT

For year ended June 30, 1956. Presented at the annual meeting of the Nature Conservancy on August 29 by Executive Director George B. Fell.

Natural areas

During the past year the Nature Conservancy has been directly concerned with efforts to set aside or protect more than 30 specific areas. The Conservancy now owns five preserves: the Arthur W. Butler Memorial Sanctuary and the Mianus River Gorge Preserve, both in Westchester County, N. Y.; the Fire Island Bog on Long Island; the Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve in Calvert County, Maryland; and Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary in Susquehanna County, Pa. In addition we have options on Tannersville Bog in Pennsylvania; Battle Creek Cypress Swamp in Maryland; and Dome Island, Lake George, N. Y. Options on several other tracts are in process.

Past issues of Nature Conservation News have carried reports on various additional tracts, notably Little Mountain State Park in Alabama and the Moraga redwoods area in Contra Costa County, California. The Nature Conservancy has played a part in the preservation of additional areas under ownership of state park agencies and other units of government. An example is the virgin white pine forest in Bois Blanc Island, Michigan. We obtained a delay in a proposed timber sale in that case and subsequent negotiations through the Michigan Natural Areas Council and other organizations have led to the assurance of protection of the area under state ownership.

Other areas from coast to coast and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf are in various stages of negotiations where no public announcement is yet possible.

A foremost concern, but one to which we are still giving far too little attention, is the preservation of grassland. It is our aim to concentrate much greater effort on this subject in the coming year. There are hopeful signs. One is that the National Park Service is taking an active interest in surveying grasslands that may be potentially suitable as national monuments. Another is an apparent awakening of interest on the part of potential leaders in some of the grassland states.

Territorial units

Activities of Nature Conservancy representatives and units have increased during the year. Meetings of Nature Conservancy groups have been held in Maine, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Missouri, the Bay area of California, Illinois, and several parts of New York. We have formed an affiliation with the Michigan Natural Areas Council. This provides a joint membership arrangement for Michigan people and the Michigan Council represents the Conservancy in natural area matters.

ANNUAL REPORT (cont.)

in the state. A natural area preservation group has been organized under the Utah Academy of Science with the encouragement of Dr. Allen W. Stokes, our Utah representative.

Space does not permit a detailed enumeration of the many extremely important activities being carried on by voluntary representatives of the Conservancy from coast to coast.

Inventories

The Committee on the Inventory of Nature Preserves has produced a revision of the inventory of national parks. This has been published as Information Bulletin No. 23.

The other more important development is the progress that has been made on the inventory of natural areas in need of preservation. We now have a card catalog of natural areas in every state. This has been completed to the extent of listing all the areas on which we have information. A state listing has been sent to key persons in each state with the request they investigate the areas, bring the information up to date, and compile a list of the five to ten areas most in need of preservation in the state. This task has been completed in about a fourth of the states.

Special committee activities

The most active special committees during the past year have been the Committee on Population Problems under chairmanship of Dr. Conrad Chapman, the Committee on Exotics under Dr. Herbert W. Levi, and the Committee on Natural Areas for Schools under Dr. John W. Brainerd. These have all been reported on in previous issues of Nature Conservation News.

Publications

During the year the Conservancy central office published three issues of Nature Conservation News and distributed five issues of the Bulletin of the International Union for Conservation (formerly International Union for the Protection of Nature). Ten information bulletins were produced, including the following numbers:

- 14 - Problems of land acquisition
- 15 - Current land disposal policies of the U. S. Government
- 16 - Nature Conservancy policies concerning acquisition of land for preservation
- 17 - Nature Conservancy policies concerning management of an area acquired for preservation
- 18 - \$80,000 for conservation
- 19 - Natural areas for schools
- 20 - The forest is a classroom and Cedar Creek Forest
- 21 - Wildflower laws
- 22 - The natural area situation, 1955-56
- 23 - Preserved areas in the U. S. and Canada: the national parks of the U. S.

Living Museums of Primeval America was revised and the new printing brought the total number of copies issued to about 72,200. Dr. Sears' What Worth Wilder-

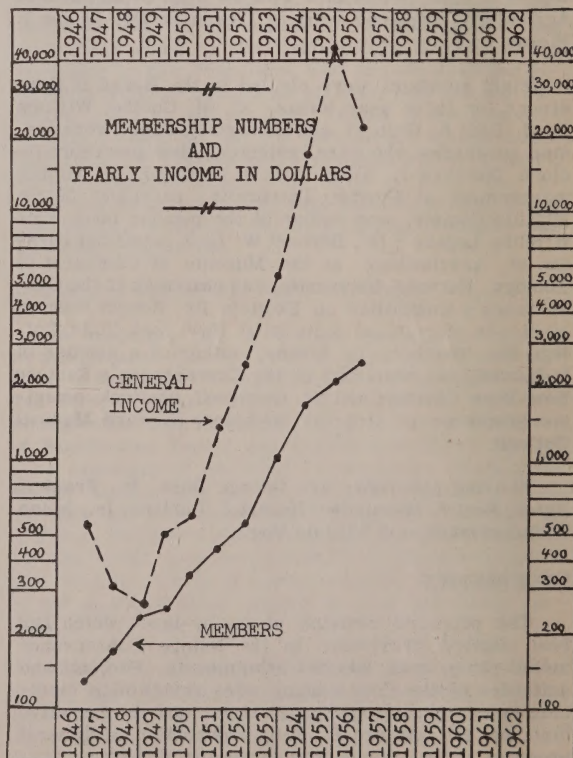
ness? was also reprinted and its total distribution now stands at about 50,000. Living Museums of Natural History by Richard H. Pough was reprinted from the magazine Planning and Civic Comment. The Flora of Winnebago County, Illinois, by Dr. E. W. Fell, was published with private sponsorship. Numerous other items such as reports, drafts, minutes, and notices were printed or duplicated. The total number of items produced or distributed was 157, and the total number of copies was 182,000.

Policies

During the year the Board of Governors devoted a great amount of effort to a reappraisal of basic policies and a corresponding revision of the by-laws. Credit for a major portion of this work goes to the special by-laws revision committee, consisting of F. Raymond Fosberg, Elting Arnold, and Conrad Chapman.

In addition, preliminary statements of Nature Conservancy policy concerning the acquisition of areas for preservation and the management of preserves have been produced and published as Information Bulletins 16 and 17.

Other details of policy have been formulated and policies have been compiled into summary form. Policies relating to field activities were revised and the old chapter manual was replaced with a Manual of Territorial and Project Operations. In addition, a standard resolution for the establishment of natural area projects was formulated.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
JUNE 30, 1956

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$ 6,661.34	
Pledges Receivable	2,200.00	
Accounts Receivable	157.10	
Prepaid Expenses	1,087.52	
Total Current Assets		\$10,106.96

Investments

Savings and Loan Shares	40,705.26	
Government Bonds	1,096.45	
Common Stocks	45,231.25	
Total Investments		87,032.96

Fixed Assets

Equipment	2,986.49	
Less: Reserve for depreciation	1,526.43	
Total Fixed Assets		1,460.06
Total Assets		<u>\$98,599.98</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

Accounts Payable		\$ 2.02
<u>Endowment Funds</u>		
General	\$14,250.00	
Special	21,547.30	
Total Endowment Funds		35,797.30
<u>Special Funds</u>		
Research & Educational Funds	3,364.29	
Natural Areas Funds	13,870.60	
Regional Funds	1,829.34	
Total Special Funds		19,064.23
<u>General Funds</u>		
Operating Fund	11,736.43	
Reserve for development	32,000.00	
Total General Funds		43,736.43
Total Liabilities and Funds		<u>\$98,599.98</u>

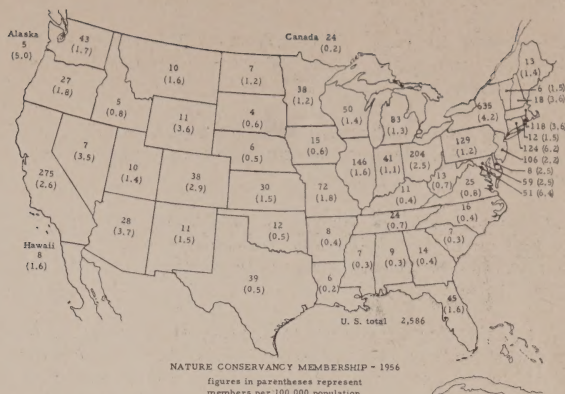
STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUND INCOME
AND EXPENSE, FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 1956

INCOME

Dues and contributions	\$17,497.06	
Interest and dividends	3,497.66	
Other income	45.60	
Total income		\$21,040.32

EXPENSES

Personnel	8,722.37	
Rent and utilities	1,302.92	
Travel	829.66	
Communication	880.97	
Operations (printing, supplies, misc.)	1,525.99	
Equipment	634.50	
General (fees, expenses of governors and representatives)	1,068.83	
Total expense		14,965.24
Net excess of income over expense		\$ 6,075.08



NEW BOOKS

Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth

Edited by William L. Thomas, Jr. with the collaboration of Carl O. Sauer, Marston Bates, and Lewis Mumford. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1956. 1192 pp. Illus. \$12.50

"What has been, and is, happening to the earth's surface as a result of man's having been on it for a long time, increasing in numbers and skills unevenly, at different places and times?" On June 16, 1955, a group of seventy selected scholars met in Princeton, New Jersey, to explore this question. The occasion was the International Symposium on Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth sponsored by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. The present book is the result of this symposium.

The volume includes ten discussion topics and fifty-five papers arranged in the following categories:

Introduction

Our world from the air: conflict and adaptation

Part I. Retrospect

Man's tenure of the earth
Through the corridors of time

Part II. Process

Man's effects on the seas and waters of the land
Alterations of climatic elements
Slope and soil changes through human use
Modifications of biotic communities
Ecology of wastes
Urban-industrial demands upon the land

Part III. Prospect

Limits of man and the earth
The role of man

Summary Remarks

Retrospect - Process - Prospect

It is not possible to mention very many of the subjects covered, but the following titles will indicate the wide range of these fascinating studies: "The hydraulic civilizations", "The ecology of peasant life in western Europe", "The age of fossil fuels", "Influences of man upon coast lines", "Modification of rural microclimates", "The modification of mid-latitude grasslands

NEW BOOKS (cont.)

and forests by man", "The pressure of residential-industrial land use", "The spiral of population", and "Limitations to energy use".

"Man's role in changing the face of the earth" is a book that deserves the attention of every thoughtful person.

A Contribution to the History of the Glacier Bay National Monument, by William S. Cooper. Published by the Department of Botany, University of Minnesota, March, 1956. 36 pp., paper.

In 1916, Dr. Cooper visited Glacier Bay on the Alaska Coast and set up a number of quadrats for studies of plant succession on areas left bare by the recession of glaciers. His subsequent work stimulated the formation of a special committee of the Ecological Society of America, with Dr. Cooper as chairman, to see what could be done to obtain national park or monument status for the Glacier Bay area. Other organizations followed the lead of the Ecological Society, and the project culminated in 1925 in President Coolidge's proclamation establishing Glacier Bay National Monument. Dr. Cooper again headed a committee in 1936 in an attempt to defeat legislation permitting mining in the Monument. This time, however, the committee was unsuccessful.

This succinct and well documented history of a significant natural area is accompanied by a bibliography of publications by Dr. Cooper and other material related to Glacier Bay.

Western Wonderlands, by John L. Blackford. Vantage, 1956. 120 pp., 96 plates. \$5.00

The subtitle of this book, "A guide to bird habitats of the western United States," might better have been its title. It attempts to introduce beginners to ecologi-

cal concepts through a brief preliminary essay. This is followed by a series of 18 habitat descriptions in the form of classified lists of plant and bird species characteristic of each area, with notes on breeding habits. These in turn are followed by 96 attractive black and white photographic plates, mostly by the author, which match, though not closely, the habitat lists. The West is large, the approach is perhaps too simplified; but the enthusiastic author is modestly aware of the difficulties of his job.

Handbook of Wilderness Travel, by George and Iris Wells. Harper, 1956. 306 pp. \$4.00

This book is an astonishingly thorough compendium of information of the most practical sort, with detailed directions for finding and exploring virtually every roadless area, however small, that still survives in the United States, can be called "wild," and can be camped upon. Only Kansas seems to be without wilderness. Without regret, the authors face the facts of the mid-twentieth century: namely, that we have little wilderness in the original sense, and that most of the areas we have left are now heavily used and must be used with expert care to preserve them. However, mechanized civilization, which has destroyed wilderness while intensifying our craving for it, has also given us specially engineered light weight equipment and foods for easy and harmless wilderness travel. The authors also have no illusions about the traveler's finding himself within shouting distance of other human beings in almost every area except those requiring great exertion, even in many supposedly vacant western forests and deserts.

There are doubtless minor errors that will be noticed, but the descriptions read as though the authors had paid personal visits to each area. In its practical emphasis on recreation in the highest sense, this book suggests to us the lack of areas set aside as "living museums," in spite of all those preserved as "wild." The latter may or may not be true natural areas.

Note: Shown below is the Board as constituted prior to Sept., 1956. See page 3 for changes.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President: RICHARD H. POUGH American Museum of Natural History	ARMIN K. LOBECK Columbia University
Vice President: F. RAYMOND FOSBERG Falls Church, Virginia	HERBERT A. MCCULLOUGH Howard College
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The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

Nature Conservancy
4200 22nd Street, Northeast
Washington 18, D. C.

Date.....

Please include me (our organization) as a member. Enclosed is \$.....

☐ Individual ☐ Organization

A contribution of \$2 or more entitles you to annual membership with publications and one of \$100 or more to Patron membership.

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Address			
City	Zone		State